

The gentleman also knows that we passed a recovery and reinvestment bill that had over \$250 billion of tax relief, some for individuals and some for small businesses, some for businesses generally. About 35 percent of that bill was tax relief for our citizens. The other percentage of that bill was for investment, was for dealing with those who have been put at deepest risk by the economic crisis, in terms of losing jobs, in terms of not being able to feed their families and not having health care available to them.

So I say to my friend that, as we move forward on the budget, and as we look to the administration for the clarification that the gentleman seeks, appropriately, in my opinion, and in our opinion, a more specific outline of how the administration's going to proceed, we will have that in consideration when we produce a budget. And as I say, we intend to produce a responsible budget that looks towards deficit reduction. That obviously won't be until some time from now. We've got to turn this economy around, start creating jobs which, hopefully, will have the effect of the stock market going up, not down, which is to the interest of all of us.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I yield back my time.

VOTING RIGHTS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TONKO. Two and a third centuries ago, before our United States Capitol had even been imagined, the Founders were asking a question we hear in the District of Columbia to this day, and that is, how can we cut out a city from its home State and put it under the direct rule of Congress without violating the principles that the Revolutionary War fought to secure?

James Madison argued that there was only one way around that hypocrisy, "to provide for the rights and the consent of the citizens inhabiting it." And further, its people "will have had their voice in the election of the government which is to exercise authority over them."

That was the intent of our Founders. Those were the conditions for this District to exist, but they have not been upheld. 233 years later, of all the world's democracies, there is only one national capital without full voting rights. Washington, D.C., this city full of monuments to democracy, holds that distinction. At last, that's on the verge of changing.

Soon this House will vote on a bill to give the District of Columbia a voting Member of the House of Representatives. I urge my colleagues in this Chamber to finally give the people of Washington, D.C. a vote in this great body.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KRATOVL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STAFF-LED TOURS OF THE CAPITOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern about the difficulties Member offices are experiencing offering staff-led tours of the Capitol.

As Chair of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee, I am fully committed to making sure Member offices can continue providing this important service to their constituents.

The Capitol is not a museum. It is a living, breathing institution at the core of our representative democracy. Staff-led tours give our constituents a chance to experience the work that goes on here on a personalized level.

When there was talk last year about eliminating staff-led tours, we made clear at our oversight hearings that preserving those tours should be one of the highest priorities for the Capitol Visitor Center. Reflecting that priority, we included a provision in last year's Legislative Branch Appropriations bill prohibiting the elimination of staff-led tours.

However, preserving the existence of the tours and putting a button on the CVC Web site is simply not enough. We also need to make sure that the system in place doesn't diminish Member offices' ability to offer staff-led tours. Mr. BRADY and I intend to work aggressively over the next few weeks to ensure that improvements to the system arrive before the peak visitor season hits.

Staff who give tours should receive training, but we need to make sure that the time requirements make sense, that the training is consistent and effective, and that classes are offered frequently enough to meet Member office needs. We also need to make sure that we don't homogenize the Capitol tour and turn this beautiful institution into a museum.

Staff-led tours offer something that guide-led tours cannot, a personalized experience that incorporates items of State and local interest. We need to make sure that we don't take that personal touch out of the tour process.

We also need to make sure that Member offices are given clear information about how to accommodate their constituents if the on-line reservation system shows all the slots for a given day are taken.

The CVC Web site and reservation system also could stand improvement, particularly standardizing the on-line process for booking staff-led tours so that you don't have to hunt and peck to figure out how to book one.

I look forward to working with Mr. BRADY and the authorizing committees on these issues so we can make the existing system more user-friendly, without compromising security or overloading the Capitol building.

And I encourage and ask all Members if they have suggestions to please offer them to us.

□ 1915

DEFENDERS OF THE ALAMO THAT DIED MARCH 6, 1836 BY MARY ANN NOONON GUERRA—HISTORIAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 163 years ago this night, on March the 5th, 1836, would be the last night for a group of individuals who came from all over the United States. They were from most of the States. They were from numerous foreign countries. They were odd sorts of individuals. They were frontiersmen, landowners, lawyers, unemployed. They were of all races—black, white and brown—but they were all volunteers, and most of them knew that this would be their last night after spending 12 days defending an old, beat-up Spanish fort that had already been over 100 years old. It was now a mission but also a fortress, what we call the Alamo.

You see, this odd bunch of individuals ended up there because all of them had ended up and had come to Texas from different parts of the country—from Mexico, from Europe—to seek a new life.

Backing up in history a little bit, the country of Spain had claimed most of Central America and Mexico, which included Texas at the time. Mexico decided to revolt against Spain. That revolution was successful, and in 1824, the country of Mexico adopted a constitution drafted very similarly to ours, which gave civil liberties to all people in Mexico, which included Texas.

But Mexico had a problem with a dictator. His name was Santa Anna, and when he became dictator of Mexico, he abolished the Constitution of 1824. He eliminated civil rights. He abolished the right to be tried by a jury, and he imposed dictator powers on Mexico. That offended people who lived in what is now Texas. It offended people of all races. So, in 1835, a revolution started in Texas.

Then on March the 6th, 1836, which would be tomorrow morning, 13 days after defending the Alamo, these individuals were sieged by a force of military Mexican soldiers several times the size of the 187 defenders. Most of them knew that that would be their last night on Earth and that tomorrow they would see their fate because they were outnumbered.

You have heard all of their names throughout history. Probably the most famous are a Tennessee Congressman by the name of Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, famous from Louisiana, but there were others—Juan Sequin from Mexico, who was a scout, or William Barret Travis, the commander of the Alamo. Jim Bonham was a scout who was also a boyhood friend of William Barret Travis. In all, there were 187. William Barret Travis was a 27-year-old lawyer from South Carolina, then Alabama, and then he came to what is now Texas.

All of these individuals called themselves, not Texans, but Texians. Even Hispanic defenders of the Alamo referred to themselves as Tehanos, or Texians.

No one came to the help of the individuals who were at the Alamo, even though Travis had sent out numerous requests for aid, except for 32 men from the small town of Gonzales. They marched their way into the Alamo walls, and when they arrived, Travis made the comment, "These men came to die."

We all have heard about his famous letter that he has written, that is now in history, about how he had asked for aid and about how he was determined to sustain himself for as long as possible, which he did.

Some historians say and tradition says that, before the last day took place on March the 5th, in the evening, William Barret Travis drew a line in the sand with his sword, and he told those individuals who wanted to fight, and yet die for the Republic of Texas, to cross the line.

Historians say the first person to cross the line was a 26-year-old kid from Ohio. All walked over except an individual by the name of Moses Rose. Moses Rose was an individual from France, and he decided not to stay at the Alamo, and left over the Alamo wall. He later became one of the biggest sources for what took place at the Alamo.

That next morning, Santa Anna assaulted the troops, assaulted the fort, and after several hours of fighting, the fort was taken. What few defenders were captured after they surrendered were summarily executed, and the bodies were burned. William Barret Travis made the comment that victory would be more costly to the enemy than defeat. He was right. Ten times the number of Santa Anna's military and army were defeated and killed at that battle.

Mr. Speaker, it's important that we remember the men of the Alamo who fought for victory in the Republic of

Texas. It's important that we always remember anybody anywhere in the world who fights for liberty, and we honor those people tonight.

And that's just the way it is.

DEFENDERS OF THE ALAMO THAT DIED MARCH 6, 1836, BY MARY ANN NOONON GUERRA, HISTORIAN

Abamillo, Juan, San Antonio (Mexico); Allen, Robert, Virginia; Andross, Miles DeForest, 21, Vermont; Autry, Micajah, 42, North Carolina; Badillo, Juan Antonio, San Antonio (Mexico); Bailey, Peter James III, Kentucky; Baker, Isaac G., 22, Arkansas; Baker, William Charles M., Missouri; Ballentine, John J., Pennsylvania; Ballentine, Richard W., 22, Scotland; Baugh, John J., 33, Virginia; Bayliss, Joseph, 28, Tennessee; Blair, John, Tennessee; Blair, Samuel C., 33, Tennessee; Blazeby, William, 41, England; Bonham, James Butler, 29, South Carolina; Bourne, Daniel, 26, England; Bowie, James, 40, Kentucky; Bowman, Jesse B., 51, Tennessee; Brown, George, 35, England; Brown, James Murry, 36, Pennsylvania; Brown, Robert, 18, Unknown; Buchanan, James, 23, Alabama; Burns, Samuel E., 26, Ireland; Butler, George D., 23, Missouri; Cain (Cane), John, 34, Pennsylvania; Campbell, James (Robert), 26, Tennessee; Carey, William R., 30, Virginia; Clark, Charles Henry, Missouri; Clark, M.B., Mississippi; Cloud, Daniel William, 24, Kentucky; Cochran, Robert E., 26, New Hampshire; Cottle, George Washington, 27, Missouri; Courtman, Henry, 28, Germany; Crawford, Lemuel, 22, South Carolina; Crockett, David, 50, Tennessee; Crossman, Robert, 26, Pennsylvania; Cummings, David P., 29, Pennsylvania; Cunningham, Robert W., 34, New York; Darst, Jacob C., Kentucky; Davis, John, Kentucky; Day, Freeman H.K., Unknown; Day, Jerry C., Missouri; Daymon, Squire, Tennessee; Dearduff, William, Tennessee; Dennison, Stephen (or Ireland), England; Despallier, Charles, Louisiana; Dickerson (Dickinson), Almeron, 36, Tennessee; Dimpkins, James R., England; Duvalt, Andrew, Ireland; Espalier, Carlos, San Antonio (Mexico); Esparza, Gregorio (Jose Maria), San Antonio (Mexico); Evans, Robert, Ireland; Evans, Samuel B., New York; Ewing, James L., Tennessee; Fishbaugh, William, Alabama; Flanders, John, Massachusetts; Floyd, Dolphin Ward, North Carolina; Forsyth, John Hubbard, 39, New York; Fuentes, Antonio, San Antonio (Mexico); Fuqua, Galba, Alabama; Garnett, William, Virginia; Garrand, James W., Louisiana; Garrett, James Girard, Tennessee; Garvin, John E., Unknown; Gaston, John E., 17, Kentucky; George, James, Unknown; Goodrich, John Camp, Virginia; Grimes, Albert (Alfred) Calvin, Georgia; Gwynne, James C., England; Hannum, James, Pennsylvania; Harris, John, Kentucky; Harrison, Andrew Jackson, Tennessee; Harrison, William B., Ohio; Haskell, Charles M., Tennessee; Hawkins, Joseph M., Ireland; Hays, John M., Tennessee; Herndon, Patrick Henry, Virginia; Hersee, William Daniel, England; Holland, Tapely, 26, Ohio; Holloway, Samuel, Pennsylvania; Howell, William D., Massachusetts; Jackson, Thomas, Ireland; Jackson, William Daniel, Kentucky; Jameson, Green B., Kentucky; Jennings, Gordon C., Connecticut; Jimenez, Damacio, San Antonio (Mexico); Johnson, Lewis, Wales; Jones, John, New York; Kellogg, John Benjamin, Kentucky; Kenny, James, Virginia; Kent, Andrew, Kentucky; Kerr, Joseph, Louisiana; Kimble (Kimbell), George C., Pennsylvania; King, William Phillip, 15, San Antonio (Mexico); Lewis, William Irvine, San Antonio (Mexico); Lightfoot, William J., San Antonio (Mexico); Lindley, Jonathan L., Illinois; Linn, William, Massachusetts; Losoya, Jose Toribio,

San Antonio (Mexico); Main, George Washington, Virginia; Malone, William T., Virginia; Marshall, William, Tennessee; Martin, Albert, Rhode Island; McCafferty, Edward, Unknown; McCoy, Jesse, Tennessee; McDowell, William, Pennsylvania; McGee, James, Ireland; McGregor, John, Scotland; McKinney, Robert, Tennessee; Melton, Elice (Eliel), 38, Georgia; Miller, Thomas R., Tennessee; Millsaps, Isaac, 41, Mississippi; Mills, William, Tennessee; Mitchasson, Edward F., Virginia; Mitchell, Napoleon B., Unknown; Moore, Robert B., Virginia; Moore, Willis A., Mississippi; Musselman, Robert, 31, Ohio; Nava, Andres, San Antonio (Mexico); Neggan, George, South Carolina; Nelson, Andrew M., Tennessee; Nelson, Edward, South Carolina; Nelson, George, South Carolina; Northcross, James, Virginia; Nowlan, James, England; Pagan, George, Mississippi; Parker, Christopher Adams, Mississippi; Parks, William, North Carolina; Perry, Richardson, San Antonio (Mexico); Pollard, Amos, 33, Massachusetts;

Reynolds, John Purdy, Pennsylvania; Robertson, James Waters, Tennessee; Roberts, Thomas H., Unknown; Robinson, Isaac, Scotland; Rose, James M., Ohio; Rusk, Jackson J., Ireland; Rutherford, Joseph, Kentucky; Ryan, Isaac, Louisiana; Scurlough, Mial; North Carolina; Sewell, Marcus L., England; Shied, Manson, Georgia; Simmons, Cleveland Kinloch, 21, South Carolina; Smith, Andrew H., Tennessee; Smith, Charles S., Maryland; Smith, Joshua G., North Carolina; Smith, William H., Unknown; Starr, Richard, England; Stewart James E., England; Stockton, Richard Lucius, New Jersey; Summerlin, A. Spain, Tennessee; Summers, William E., Tennessee; Sutherland, William Depriest, 18, Alabama;

Taylor, Edward, Tennessee; Taylor, George, Tennessee; Taylor, James, Tennessee; Taylor, William, Tennessee; Thomas, B. Archer M., Kentucky; Thomas, Henry, Germany; Thompson, Jesse G., Arkansas; Thomson, John W., North Carolina; Thurston, John M., Pennsylvania; Trammel Burke, Ireland; Travis, William Barret, 27, South Carolina; Tumlinson, George W., Missouri; Tylee, James, New York; Walker, Asa, Tennessee; Walker, Jacob, 37, Tennessee; Ward, William B., 30, Ireland; Warnell, Henry, 24, Arkansas; Washington, Joseph G., Kentucky; Waters, Thomas, England; Wells, William, Georgia; White, Isaac, Alabama; White, Robert, Unknown;

Williamson, Hiram James, Pennsylvania; Wills, William, Georgia; Wilson, David L., Scotland; Wilson, John, 32, Pennsylvania; Wolfe, Anthony (Avram), England; Wright, Claiborne, North Carolina; Zanco, Charles, Denmark; and John (last name unknown), Unknown.

IMPLEMENTING THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN: AN OUTLINE FOR ACTION IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the Center for Arms Control and Non-proliferation has released a report. It's called "Implementing the President's Plan: An Outline for Action in Iraq."

This report, based on the Obama plan to redeploy U.S. troops and military contractors in 16 months, was written by retired military leaders Colonel Richard L. Klass, Lieutenant General Robert G. Gard, Jr., and Brigadier General John Johns.